

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:15

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016

APEC Membership

Rao (Avnithi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the membership status of India in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum at present;
- (b) whether last year's Indo-US joint declaration has merely noted India's interest in APEC and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the United States has invited India to participate in APEC as an observer;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken or being taken by the Government to seek membership of APEC; and
- (e) the justification of the Government of India for not joining the APEC as a full member despite having an 'Act East Policy' as a foreign relations priority?

Answer

???????b ??? ?????? ?????i ?????? (????????? ?????????? ??????????) (????????? ???????)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 15 FOR ANSWER ON 25TH APRIL, 2016 REGARDING "APEC MEMBERSHIP "

- (a) India had applied for membership of APEC in 1991 on the basis of its geographic location, potential size of the economy and degree of trade interaction with the Asia-Pacific. However, at the 5th APEC Leaders' meeting in Vancouver in 1997, a decision was taken to place a 10 year moratorium on expanding membership which continues informally till date.
- (b) & (c) The US-India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region issued on 25 January 2015 states that "as part of these efforts, the United States welcomes India's interest in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, as the Indian economy is a dynamic part of the Asian economy."
- (d) & (e) India is engaging with APEC member countries to develop a consensus on lifting the informal moratorium on accepting new members and to engage for India's candidature for membership of APEC.
